

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for converting an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment including:
 - receiving input in a first of the environments specifying the electronic document,
 - storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format, and
 - converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into an destination file format adapted for editing use in the second of the environments,
 - wherein the intermediary format specifies the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in at least one of the environments.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further including transferring the document to an apparatus adapted for operation in the second of the environments.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further including rendering the electronic document in the second of the environments in accordance with the specified formatting.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 further including editing the electronic document formatting for one of the environments.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein editing the electronic document in one of the environments does not affect formatting of the rendered electronic document in the other of the environments.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the input is received in a Braille environment from a Braille keyboard, standard keyboard or a stored computer file.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the destination format is adapted for use in a word processor environment.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the input is received in a word processor environment from a standard keyboard or a stored computer file.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the destination format is adapted for use in a Braille environment.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the destination format is compatible with word processing equipment to assist in creating, editing, rendering and/or printing a text document.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the destination format is compatible with Braille equipment to assist in creating, editing, rendering and/or embossing a Braille document.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the destination format for use in a Braille environment specifies the electronic document for rendering in grade 1, 2 or computer Braille.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the destination format for use in a word processor environment specifies the electronic document for presentation on a word processor.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further including transmitting the document to another computer.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the electronic document formatting is specified by codes indicating page layout, character attributes and the like.
16. (Currently amended) A method for converting an electronic document interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment including:

receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device
operating in the Braille environment,

storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies
the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word
processor environment,

converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a
word processor file format,

and transferring the electronic document in the word processor format to
equipment operating in the word processor environment,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored
independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the
document formatting for each environment.

17. (Currently amended) A method for converting an electronic document
interchangeably between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for
use in a word processor environment including:

receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device
operating in the word processor environment,

storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies
the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word
processor environment,

converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a
Braille file format,

and transferring the electronic document in the Braille format to equipment operating in the Braille environment,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus which enables use of an electronic document in a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device in a first of the environments for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format, and

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format for use in the second of the environments,

wherein the intermediary file format specifies the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in at least one of the environments.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 further including an input device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to one of claims 18 wherein editing the document formatting for one of the environments does not affect document formatting for the other environment.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 further including a telecommunications port for transferring the document to another apparatus.
22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second of the environments is a word processor environment and the destination format is adapted for compatibility with word processor equipment.
23. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second of the environments is a Braille environment and the destination format is adapted for compatibility with Braille equipment.
24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the format for use in a Braille environment specifies information for rendering the document in grade 1, 2 or computer Braille.
25. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the document formatting is specified by codes indicating page layout, character attributes and the like.
26. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 further including an output device for rendering the electronic document in a visual, tactile or audible manner.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus which enables use of an electronic document ~~in~~ interchangeably between a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device operating in the Braille environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment,

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a word processor file format compatible for use with word processor equipment operating in the word processor environment,

a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the word processor equipment, and

an editing device for editing the ~~electronic~~ document formatting for each of the environments,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary file format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus which enables use of an electronic document ~~in~~ interchangeably between a Braille and a word processor environment including:

at least one document input device operating in the word processor environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus,

a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary file format which specifies the ~~electronic~~ document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment,

a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary file format into a Braille file format compatible for use with Braille equipment operating in a Braille environment,

a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the Braille equipment, and

an editing device for editing the ~~electronic~~ document formatting for each of the environments,

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment.

29. (New) A device for use of an electronic document between at least two environments, at least one of said environments being a Braille environment or a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the electronic document;

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document including but not limited to,

information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used;

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in one of the environments, including that content which is conditional on that environment.

30. (New) A device as claimed in claim 29 further comprising

means for reviewing the document content in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

31. (New) A device as claimed in claim 30 further comprising

means for editing the document content, in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

32. (New) A device for use of an electronic document interchangeably between at least two environments, at least one of said environments being a Braille environment or a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the electronic document;

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document including but not limited to, information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used;

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in one of the environments, including that content which is conditional on that environment.

33. (New) A device for specifying an electronic document for use in a Braille environment and for use in a word processor environment including:

means for receiving input, in either of the environments, which specifies the document,

means for storing the document electronically in an intermediary file format, which preserves all the content of the document as independent objects,

means for reviewing the document content in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

means for editing the document content, in either of the environments, including that content which is conditional on either environment,

means for converting the document from the intermediary file format into a destination file format adapted for storing, reviewing or editing in only one of the environments,

wherein the intermediary file preserves and specifies the document including but not limited to, information content, document presentation content, and content conditional on the environment in which it is being used.